



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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DIRECTOR

June 8, 2007

Dear VFC Provider,

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program would like to keep you up to date on the state's move to centralized vaccine distribution. The Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project, (VMBIP) is being launched by the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) in order to streamline vaccine management activities at the federal, state, and local level. CDC has selected McKesson Specialty, a division of McKesson to accomplish this. MDCH will begin using the McKesson Specialty services to distribute vaccine in January 2008. As a VFC provider, you will continue to place vaccine orders through your local health department (LHD) by using the enhancements in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) system already familiar to immunization providers in our state. To continue to participate in Michigan VFC program, providers will be required to adopt this new centralized distribution form of vaccine delivery.

This is an exciting process for Michigan, and we are looking forward to program enhancements. Vaccine will be shipped from McKesson Specialty directly to your door. The importance in this, of course, is to reduce the number of times the vaccine is shipped and stored (referred to as the cold chain) while in route to your clinic. Currently vaccine goes from manufacturer, to MDCH depot, to LHDs and then to you. This 4 to 1 reduction in the cold chain ensures vaccine safety, enabling insurance and liability costs to be in the hands of the distributor. We are developing a MDCH website for private providers and local public health use as we move forward with this process.

During this transition period, and after its implementation in January 2008, LHDs will be facilitators of local vaccine ordering and assist you with accountability, storage and handling, and inventory issues. We will begin this summer with an inventory count, and will attempt to decrease LHD inventories in preparation of the transition date in January 2008. LHDs will be out of the business of distributing vaccine, but will play a key role in ensuring that vaccine is accounted for appropriately and that providers are ordering on a tiered frequency. You will no longer have to send staff to the LHD for vaccine pick up. Your vaccine inventory will be tracked and any possible vaccine losses due to expiration will be lessened. You will also be happy to know that you'll have consistent ordering and delivery of vaccines statewide, via enhanced MCIR capabilities. Shipments will have a much quicker turnaround. States already using this centralized distribution system are reporting most orders have been shipped within three shipping days of receipt.

We are attaching an FAQ and McKesson fact sheet for you to look at and hopefully will alleviate any concerns or questions you may have. You may contact your LHD Immunization Coordinator or Liaison, who will be your primary contact point during this transition, for more information.

Thanks so much for being an immunization advocate.

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Division of Immunizations